

What is Claimed:

- 1        1. A remote control system for an electronic device, comprising:
  - 2              a processor in the electronic device that generates information to be displayed
  - 3              as an on-screen display (OSD);
    - 4              a transmitter in the electronic device that transmits the generated information
    - 5              as an OSD information signal; and
  - 6              a remote control unit, comprising:
    - 7              a receiver which receives the OSD information signal;
    - 8              a data processor which processes the OSD information signal to
    - 9              generate the OSD; and
    - 10             a display device operably linked to the data processor which displays
    - 11             the generated OSD.
- 1        2. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the remote
- 2        control unit further comprises a memory for storing generic OSD data, wherein the data
- 3        processor generates the OSD responsive to the OSD information signal and the generic OSD
- 4        data.
- 1        3. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the processor
- 2        in the electronic device generates an OSD bitmap as the OSD information and the remote
- 3        control unit further comprises a memory for storing the OSD bitmap.
- 1        4. A remote control system according to claim 3, wherein the processor
- 2        of the remote control unit down samples the OSD bitmap stored in the memory to produce a
- 3        down sampled OSD for display on the display device.
- 1        5. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic
- 2        device further comprises a further display device, operably coupled to the electronic device
- 3        and the processor of the electronic device is responsive to a command provided by the
- 4        remote control unit to selectively suppress display of the OSD on the further display device.

1           6.       A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein:

2                 the OSD information includes menu information including a plurality of  
3       options; and

4                 the remote control unit further includes:

5                 an input device for selecting one option from among the plurality of  
6       options when the menu information is displayed; and

7                 a transmitter for transmitting information concerning the selected  
8       option to the electronic device.

1           7.       A remote control system according to claim 6, wherein the remote  
2       control unit is a personal digital assistant.

1           8.       A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the OSD  
2       information is selected from a group consisting of menu information, closed caption  
3       information and electronic program guide information.

1           9.       A remote control method for use with an electronic device, comprising  
2       the steps of:

3                 generating, in the electronic device, on-screen display (OSD) information to  
4       be displayed as an OSD;

5                 transmitting the generated OSD information from the electronic device;

6                 receiving the OSD information at a remote control unit;

7                 processing the received OSD information to generate the OSD; and

8                 displaying the generated OSD on a display device operably linked to the  
9       remote control device.

1           10.      A remote control method according to claim 9, further comprising the  
2       steps of:

3                 storing generic OSD data in the remote control unit; and

4 generating the OSD responsive to the received OSD information signal and the  
5 generic OSD data.

1 11. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein:

2 the step of generating the OSD information includes the step of generating an  
3 OSD bitmap; and

4 the process further includes the step of storing the OSD bitmap in the remote  
5 control unit.

1 12. A remote control method according to claim 11, further including the  
2 step of down sampling the OSD bitmap stored in the memory to produce a down sampled  
3 OSD for display on the display device linked to the remote control unit.

1 13. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein:

2 the step of generating the OSD information includes the step of generating  
3 menu information including a plurality of options; and

4 the method further includes the steps of:

5 selecting one option from among the plurality of options when the  
6 menu information is displayed; and

7 transmitting information concerning the selected option to the  
8 electronic device.

1 14. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein the OSD  
2 information is selected from a group consisting of menu information, closed caption  
3 information and electronic program guide information.

1 15. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein the electronic  
2 device is operably coupled to a further display device, and the method further includes the  
3 step of selectively suppressing display of the OSD on the further display device, responsive  
4 to a command from the remote control unit.

1           16. A computer readable carrier including computer program instructions  
2 for a remote control unit for use with an electronic device, the electronic device generating  
3 on-screen display (OSD) information and transmitting the OSD information as an OSD  
4 information signal, the computer program instructions causing the remote control unit to  
5 perform a method comprising the steps of:

6                 receiving the OSD information signal;  
7                 processing the received OSD information signal to generate the OSD; and  
8                 displaying the generated OSD on a display device operably linked to the  
9 remote control unit.

1           17. A computer readable carrier according to claim 16, wherein the  
2 computer program instructions further cause the remote control unit to perform the steps of:  
3                 storing generic OSD data in the remote control unit; and  
4                 generating the OSD responsive to the received OSD information signal and the  
5 generic OSD data.

1           18. A computer readable carrier according to claim 16, wherein the  
2 electronic device generates the OSD information as an OSD bitmap and the computer  
3 program instructions further cause the remote control unit to perform the step of storing the  
4 OSD bitmap.

1           19. A computer readable carrier according to claim 18, wherein the  
2 computer program instructions further cause the remote control unit to perform the step of  
3 down sampling the OSD bitmap stored in the memory to produce a down sampled OSD for  
4 display on the display device.

1           20. A computer readable carrier according to claim 16, wherein the  
2 electronic device generates menu information including a plurality of options as the OSD  
3 information and the computer program instructions further cause the remote control unit to  
4 perform the steps of:

5 receiving a selection of one option from among the plurality of options when  
6 the menu information is displayed; and

7 transmitting information concerning the selected option to the electronic  
8 device.